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Great Faith In a Faithless Generation

Wyatt Sawyer

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GREAT FAITH IN A FAITHLESS GENERATION

II Pet. 1:1-12 Power, Divine nature, Escape.

I. MY EASIEST TASK: Prove this is faithless generation.

1. World agreements & treaties are subterfuge.
2. National Govt. should not lie! Dealing loosely.
3. Christians should not sell anhydrous ammonia tanks that do not exist. IN GOD WE TRUST!
4. Christians cannot successfully become movie stars. Degrading self & youth. Trust God!
5. Faithlessness in marriage increasing. Divorces increased ~~800%~~ since 1860. 2,000%
6. Even some Denominations justify a lie if it will benefit that church. "Restatement of Faith" Code for parents.

II. MY HARDER TASK: PROVE THAT GREAT FAITH CAN EXIST AND EVEN GROW IN THIS CROOKED GENERATION.A. Faith defined: Heb. 11:1. 11:6. R. 10:17, R. 5:1.

1. Dr. Henry Thayer's GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE N. T., 1886 edition, Page 511.

"Used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus; i.e., a conviction, full of joy, trust that Jesus is the Messiah—the divinely appointed author of salvation in the kingdom of God, COJOINED WITH OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST." Now explain Mark 16:16!

2. St. Thomas Aquinas, 1245 A. D., "Faith involves both the Intellect and the Will." Bel. + Bap.
3. Some secular definitions:

- a. Faith is believing in the eventual reality of our hopes and dreams. "Ship comes in."
- b. Faith is imagination: the ability to see your goals in perspective. Your vision here!
- c. Faith is NOT blind trust. It is confidence tempered by reason and judgment.
- d. Faith is NOT belief without proof; but trust without reservation. ..Elton Trueblood.

4. Fearful farmer demonstrates what Faith is not.

NOT! Ill. Just playing it safe. Like / talent man.

B. God Illustrates Faith Beyond Missing It.

"Great Faith is the ability to withstand evil and to do good."

1. NOAH. Heb. 11:7. Decision to do. Ignore ridicule. *stood alone!*
2. ABRAHAM. 11:8. "Faith is walking on, not sure of your destination, but knowing you will be sustained." Norman V. Peale.

(OVER)

WH - 4/8/63 1 Bap. 1 Rest. 4 4/24/66 2 M

Franklin 9-5-63 3 Rest.

York Village 4-19-66

Springdale Ark. 7-15-68

3. MOSES. Heb. 11:24,25,27. Faith is choosing God.

4. Daniel. Dan. 6:10-12. Put self in God's hand.

CONCLUSION: Heb. 11:13. Seen, persuaded, embraced confession

C. How can one have GREAT FAITH TODAY?

1. Study evidence. John 20:30-31. "I believe".

2. Submit to God's will. Rom. 12:1-2. II Tim. 2:22.

6 to 66! a. Avoid youthful lusts. None by faith. Rom. 14:23.

(1) Gambling—lust of something for nothing. E. 4:15

(2) Drinking—lust of flesh. Not by faith.

(3) Dancing—lust of flesh. Good for one, all!!

(4) Parking & petting. Lust of flesh. Abuse!!!!

(5) Mixed-swimming. lust of flesh. Proper ways.

(6) Wild driving. Pride of life. Murder!! **SHOW OFF!**

3. Confess Christ as Son of God. Romans 14:11.

4. Baptized. Final test in primary obedience.

Mark 16:15-16. Acts 2:38. 22:16. I Pet. 3:21.

CONCLUSION OF THIS LESSON: "Those who truly believe in the precious promises of God will obey His Will; to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Obey your Lord right now!

INV: Sinner friend: Where is your faith? Only in obedience.

Math. 18:3 Ill. Gregg Caldwell, 5028 Woodlawn.

Erring Christian: Where is your faith? Only seen in loyalty to the Lord's church.

Newcomers to area: Help your faith to work in the kingdom closer home because more convenient, then identify with us. NOW.

Northside FW 10-24-68
Amarillo 8-5-69 1 R

Dodge City 4-23-69

Armore 10-27-70

GREAT FAITH IN A FAITHLESS GENERATION

II Pet. 1:1-4.

NORM.

INT:

Text: God offers Great & Precious prom. to Chr.
 GREAT FAITH is one-(regardless of rest of world.)
 Christians believe this is ENTIRELY possible too.
 BELIEVE some had Great-Faith then! ^{3-GOD} ~~3-MAN~~ ^{3-ALL} ~~POSSIBLE~~
 BELIEVE all could have Great-Faith now. Mk. 16:15

*why less than best??*I. WHAT IS FAITH?A. Some Secular definitions:

1. "Faith is the belief in the eventual (NOW) reality of our hopes and dreams." Future!
2. "Faith is imagination: the ability to see your goals in perspective." Vision! *Dreams*
3. "Faith is not blind trust. It is confidence tempered by reason, evidence & judgment."
4. "Faith is not belief without proof; but trust without reservation." E. Trueblood.

*How much take to get to Heaven? Little? Great!*B. The Biblical definition: *1 Tim. 4:16-17:10.*

1. KJ "Substance hoped for; evidence..not seen" *HEB. 11:1.*
2. AS "Assurance hoped for; conviction .. not"
3. TEV "sure" "& certain...not seen"
4. Phillips: Full-confidence. Being-certain.

C. GREEK LEXICON: Dr. Henry Thayer's Lex. 1886 ed. P. 511.

"Used especially of the faith by which a man EMBRACES Jesus; i. e. a CONVICTION, FULL of JOY, TRUST that Jesus is the Messiah, the divinely appointed author of salvation in the kingdom of God, COJOINED with OBEDIENCE to Christ." Explains Acts 2:37-39.

III. D. Faith is NOT like Central Texas farmer.

I need! Planted corn? "No. Why? Corn-worms.
 Planted potatoes? No. Why? Tater-bug.
 Planted cotton? No. Why? Boll-weavel.
 DIDN'T PLANT NOTHING! Just playing it safe!!

*Unfaithful.*II. A FAITHLESS GENERATION IN JESUS' DAY. *Too!*

- A. Rel. division. Not necessary. Romans 10:17. Phar., Sadd., Libertines, Herodians, Essenes, Zealots, Scribes, Priests and Elders-greedy.
- B. Oppressive culture: High taxes, graft, pol. corruption, brutality, poverty, racism, immorality, death & disease everywhere, pointless-living, dissatisfaction, dread of life and fear of death!!!

SS 7-4-71

Jesus looked for these:

III. STILL, THERE WAS GREAT FAITH IN SOME!

- A. 12 Apostles forsook ALL. Matt. 19:27.
- B. Paul gave up everything material. P.3:7-10.
- C. CAPERNAUM: Palsy-thru roof. Mk. 2:1-5.
- D. CAPERNAUM: Centurion-Servant. Matt. 8:5-10.
- E. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~: TYRE-SIDON-Syrophoenician woman and daughter. Matt. 15:21-28.

Didn't know or care = out of vogue to BELIEVE.

IV. OUR'S ANY LESS A FAITHLESS GENERATION?

- A. Our Rel. world LESS divided than theirs? 300.
- B. Corruption in Govt. etc. less. Scandals?
- C. Culture cleaner? Movies, pornog., dress!!!
- D. West Texas elder-fert. tank scandal.
- E. Calif. brother in dirty movies, H.S. craze.

Great faith can arise in ANY time or culture

V. STILL, GREAT FAITH CAN AND DOES EXIST TODAY!!!

- A. MISSIONARIES: Perry, Benny, Don, Dean, David and Mel De Latorre, Brazil. Faith in YOU!!!
- B. ELDERS: Serving in a HARD place--three reasons
 - a. Love Lord. b. Love souls. Faith in YOU!!!
- C. HOW A GREAT FAITH GROWS:
 - a. Begins with God. Hebrews 11:6.
 - b. Grows with Christ. John 14:1-3.
 - c. Includes the Bible. John 20:30-31, 12:48.
 - d. In action in church! Acts 2:37-41.
 - e. Faith is proved. Romans 12:1-2. *Great Faith.*

INV. JESUS WANTS GREAT FAITH LIKE THAT OF A CHILD.

Matt. 18:1-6.

Ill. Like that of 4 year old. (Greg Caldwell)

5028 Woodlawn Ave.

"Would have gone forward tonight,

if I had known how to spell WOODLAWN."

Waco 4-19-72 IR

West Palm Beach 3-8-72

Chattanooga 5-11-72

1776-1950 me

Great people
Great dream
Great faith
in God
in Jesus
in others
in self